

NOTES ON THE LONG-HORNED  
BEETLES OF VIRGINIA, PART I

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## ABSTRACT

Three specimens of *Stenocorus vittiger* (Randall) have been collected from the southern Appalachian range in Virginia that are markedly different from the normal species. Its possible taxonomic placement is discussed.

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In preparation for a paper on the long-horned beetles of Virginia, I found 3 specimens of *Stenocorus vittiger* (Randall) that deserve comment. They vary from the normal and typical species as follows: in females the elytra are entirely yellow except for the sutural line which widens slightly below the median point, a line extending on the apical half of the lateral margin from the half way point to a point just short of the apices (rarely attaining the apices), and the apical tips of the elytra. The male is the same except the lateral line extends basally just short of the shoulders.

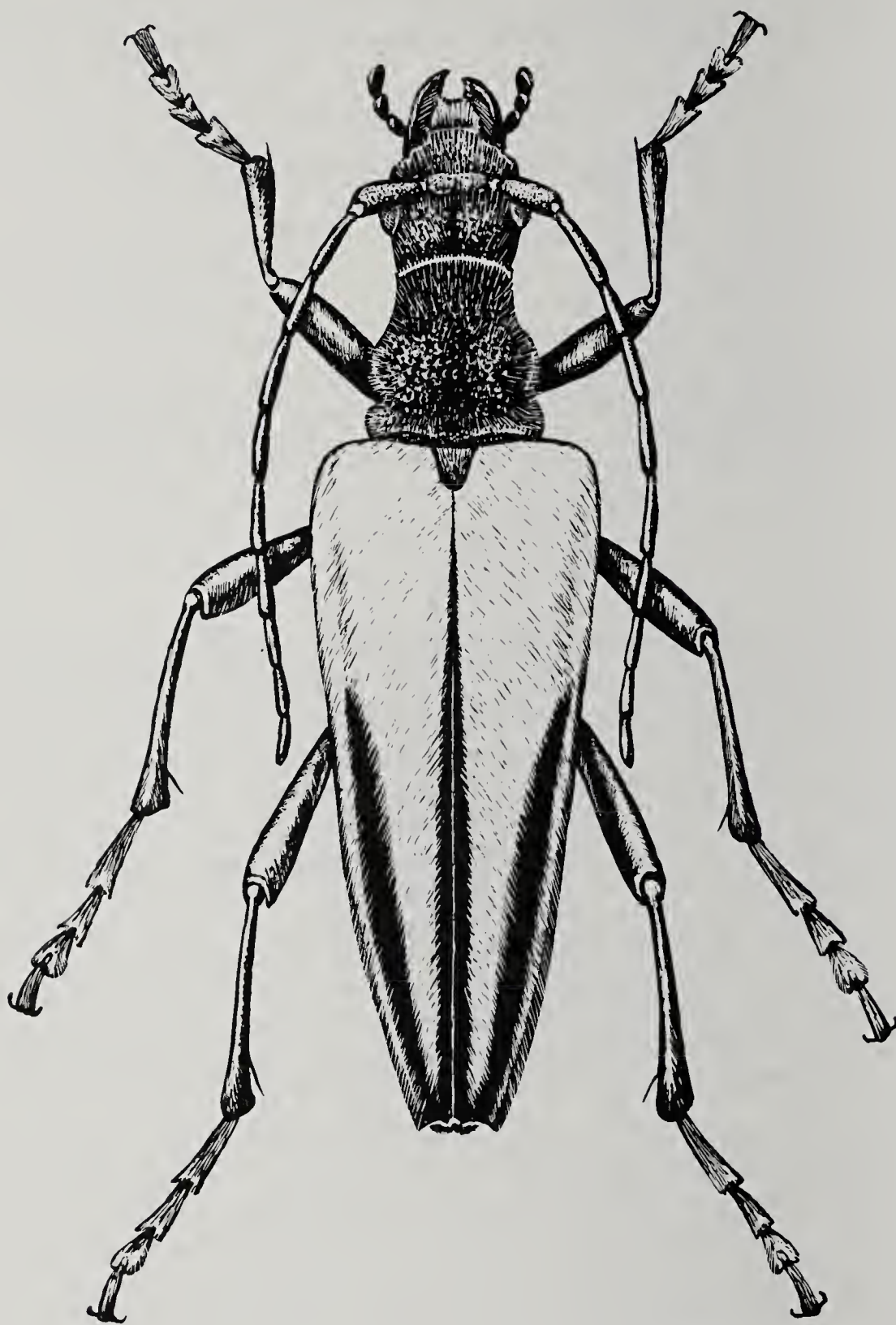
*Stenocorus vittiger* (Randall) ranges from Minnesota thru the northern midwest to Ohio, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey. These are the southern boundaries of the typical species. Three other specimens are known from Virginia (2) and North Carolina (1), but they were from the lowlands (less than 2000') and show the normal elytral striping.

The 3 deviant specimens were taken above 4000' elevation and within 40 miles of each other. No other 'yellow' specimens have been seen by the author so these may represent a local population. Since only 6 specimens have been taken south of Pennsylvania, there may not be much of a population in Virginia with which to breed. The 3 'yellow' specimens seem to be well removed from the rest of the population, both geographically and altitudinally.

Both localities (at which the 'yellow' specimens were taken) are primarily covered with oak. Linsley & Chemsak (1972) do not list a host for this species, although many adult feeding plants are known (Knull 1946). The elytral variation may be explained by different hosts, but since nothing is known of their larval feeding habits, this would only be speculation.

Hopping (1937) and Linsley & Chemsak (1972) mention that the species appears to be quite constant in color, variation being expressed only in the width of the median testaceous vittae. But the width has never been seen to this extreme.

I would like to thank Richard L. Hoffman and Henry Dybas for their learned counsel and my appreciation to Robert W. Surdick for the excellent drawing of the female. The 3 'yellow' specimens are in the author's collection.



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*Stenocorus vittiger* (Randall)

#### LITERATURE CITED

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